

9-12-06

**Clark County
Clean Water Program**

**Current Projects and Accomplishments
September 2006**

Administration/Coordination

2005-06 Budget \$13,304,567 Less than 10% is expended on Administration/Coordination

Capital Accomplishments

- Between 2000 and 2005, the program has retrofitted six existing and built two new stormwater facilities to improve water quality protection at a cost of approximately \$2,044,000. Highlights include the Thomas Lake stormwater facility in the Burnt Bridge Creek watershed (Minnehaha area) in 2004, and the North Salmon Creek/Highway 99 Stormwater Water (99 filter system) in the Salmon Creek in 2005.
- As part of the Clean Water Program, staff has inventoried 660 public-owned stormwater facilities and infrastructure and 909 privately-owned facilities. They have a better understanding of what is working and where stormwater sewers might be lacking.

Capital Current Projects

- At the time of this writing, the 199th Street/29th Avenue stormwater facility is being constructed to recreate a wetland headwater area for Mill Creek (in the Salmon Creek Watershed). The project will increase water quality and should reduce flooding associated with development in the area.
- The Curtin Creek Enhancement project located east of 72nd Avenue and south of Northeast 119th Street will capture runoff from exiting and future development in area. However, the project is delayed due to permit appeals (some citizens are opposed to the project). It should be constructed in 2007 there should be improvement in water quality discharging into Salmon Creek.
- Whipple Creek Stormwater basin planning is 80% percent complete. The effort will provide general approach to stormwater basin planning in other parts of unincorporated Clark County. This effort has generated a county Stormwater Capital Improvement Projects (SCIP) and Stormwater Capital Improvement Project Involvement Team (SCIPIT), that is similar the successful county Road Program Transportation Improvement Program Involvement Team (TIPIT). It is anticipated the SCIPIT will select several stormwater capital improvements for consideration for construction in 2007.

Monitoring Accomplishments

- The annual NPDES permit compliance report submitted to the Washington State Department of Ecology

- Public Work Water Resources participated in the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board recovery project ranking for state Salmon Recovery Fund grants
- Volunteers supported by Water Resources, completed a two-year bacteria monitoring project for the Gibbons Creek Total Maximum Daily Load. Bacteria analyses were performed by the City of Washougal treatment plant lab. The project identified the stream reaches and types of bacteria sources that are the biggest problem. The report should be available mid-September.
- Temperature data loggers are deployed in Cedar Creek to find likely source areas for a significant temperature problem discovered in a 2004 grant study.
- The illicit discharge screening project has completed dry weather inspection of 300 of the approximately 320 possible storm sewer outfalls in the Whipple Creek watershed. Work to date has found two sites where there are bacteria sources that need follow up investigation. Preliminary discussions with county Public Health and the Clark Regional Wastewater District set the stage for coordinate follow up inv

Monitoring Current Highlights

- The lead agencies for the Vancouver Lake Watershed Partnership are in the process of signing an intergovernmental agreement to guide work for the next five years. Once the agreement and funding are in place, plans to hire a project manager and begin project undertaken by Washington State University—Vancouver can move forward
- Water Resources is meeting with the Gee Creek Enhancement Group to identify possible stream habitat improvement projects
- Baseline temperature monitoring is underway in Curtin Creek ahead of construction of a wetland and channel restoration project.
- Work began to install a system to observe stream and rainfall in real-time data on the county web page
- Illicit discharge screening project Work to date has found two sites where there is bacteria sources that need follow up investigation. Preliminary discussions with county Public Health and the Clark Regional Wastewater District set the stage for coordinate follow up investigations.

Outreach and Education Accomplishments

- *River Heroes 2005-06 school year complete.*
 - Since fall of 2004, 31 of 39 elementary schools hosted assemblies. Remaining 8 were offered the program but did not accept.
 - Number of Schools: 31
 - Number of Performances: 64
 - Number of students reached: 17,897
 - Number of teachers reached: 757
- *River Rangers – Between February and July 2006:*
 - 10 presenters/volunteers
 - 28 presentations
 - 1,532 students
 - 18 schools
- *Poster Board (Bill Board) Contest:*
 - 983 entries (22% increase over 804 in 2005); 36 schools (28% increase over 28 in 2005)
 - Award ceremony held May 1, 4:00 p.m. – Clean Water Commissioners presided.

- Posters were up in lobby of Public Service Center - April 22 through May 12th
- Billboards up the week of May 12 for 60 days and another 30 days beginning September 18.
- Graphics consultant is creating a calendar using additional artwork.
- Watershed Stewards:
 - Educational Outreach Workshops
 - Rain Barrels—63 people attended three difference workshops to how to make and install rain barrels
 - Streamside Management, Rain Gardens and Impact of Urbanization—113 people attend these respective presentations
 - The Coordinator wrote an article on the Watershed Stewards program and submitted it to the Northeast Hazel Dell Neighborhood Association and the Lower Fish Enhancement Group for inclusion in their future newsletters with estimated circulations of 3,000 and 400, respectively.
- *Small Acreage Program:*
 - Four farms assessed for recognition signage, two reports completed – one merit and one model farm status.
 - 24 total signs in the community - 6 signs distributed to date in 2006; 8 in 2005; 10 in 2005 from 2004 information

Outreach and Education Current Projects

- Clark County Clean Water Commission Education Subcommittee:
 - The committee discussed a possible spring campaign in response to increasing complaints of paint dumped down storm drains and concrete workers cleaning tools in street.
 - The committee discussed drafting a printed guide for homeowner associations on how to maintain stormwater BMPs as well as holding a workshop on stormwater facility maintenance
 - The idea of approaching the Parade of Homes organizers to incorporate LID features, such as rain gardens, into featured landscapes was discussed. Susan Rasmussen is following up with her contacts in the industry. Solid Waste Program – Naturally Beautiful Backyards – is interested in partnering in this effort.
- Implement this fall a county-wide survey on stormwater and water quality to determine if citizens are changing their actions to protect surface water and ground from stormwater pollution.
- *River Heroes:* New stories for 2006/07 school year “*Living Streams – Stories for Healthy Watersheds*” (stories created with funding from Portland Bureau of Environmental Services and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board)
 - Creating new CD of stories as well as a poster and bookmarks
 - Several schools already booked for fall.
- *Watershed Stewards:*
 - Fall training is September 12 – November 14, 2006
 - Workshop on non-toxic household cleaners scheduled tentatively for sometime in October. Patty Page to present.
 - Two fact sheets in draft: [environmental] automotive care and caring for wetlands.

- All 8 storm drain stenciling kits are out on loan in the community. Participants include Cub Scouts, WSU-V Environmental Policy students, ESD 112, and Battle Ground School District. Inquiry about the program received from the National Wildlife Federation.
- *Small Acreage Program:*
 - Living on the Land 12 week series begins September 12. 59 participants registered as of Sept 6. (42 properties, many in Camas/Washougal area, which has been under represented in the past).
 - 4-H poster contest at fair received 13 entries which were posted in the horse arena for 10 days along with information about the program. Award certificates formally announced in the horse arena on August 9th.
 - Articles in Flying Changes Magazine – “Mud Matters” published April 2006; two upcoming articles – BMPs on Svendsen farm to be published in September and article on manure management tentatively in October.
- Hosted *Wells and Septic Workshops* in partnership with county Public Health at Washougal, Brush Prairie, and La Center.

Maintenance and Operations

Each year county Public Works Operations inspects and/or clean a variety of county owned or operated stormwater features. The following is based on 2005 information. Here are few of Operations’ accomplishments:

- Swept 105 miles of major roads 14 times each year and 450 miles of neighborhood miles of neighborhood streets nine times each years
- Inspected 7,500 catch basins and cleaned 89 percent of them
- Inspected 2,400 manholes and only needed to clean 28
- Inspected 900 drywells and only necessary to clean 86
- Cleaned and weeded (5 times/year) 386 bioswales
- Inspected and cleaned 6,578 linear feet of stormwater sewer pipe, etc.

Regulation and Enforcement

- Continue routine inspections of development to ensure proposed erosion control, stormwater and grading is adequate for site conditions.
- Respond to citizen complaints that include, “tracking soil on the street” and “overgrown storm facility”.
- Review requirements of the new NPDES Phase I permit to be issued in December 2007 and effective January 2007.